

Tumaini Children's Foundation
Annual Report- 2020

The Start of a New Decade



'With Hope All Things Are Possible'

2020 has been an eventful, challenging and fulfilling year at Tumaini Children's Foundation. It is important to understand that the achievements highlighted in this report have been accomplished despite the challenges we faced. Our annual report provides a snapshot of our commitment and initiatives engaged in throughout 2020. We finished the year managing an unbelievable pandemic that challenged us; however, this did not deter us in our continued support and commitment to the well-being of our children, families, and the community at large in Tanzania.

Greetings from Mama Dee

2020 - Whew! Covid 19 brought some very serious issues to us last year. We had to cancel our volunteer program, enter lockdown for three months with a skeleton crew of support, unfortunately lost several sponsors and regular donors due to their circumstantial situations and of course all "live" fundraising was curtailed.

The Simcoe Panorama is historically one of our biggest fundraisers and that was cancelled. We were unable to host our annual golf tournament, yard sales, and public speaking engagements. We were fortunate enough to sneak in our St. Paddy's Primer with The Felicia McMinn Band and as usual enjoyed a wonderful success but after that event, everything shut down.



Our children rallied back at Tumaini, coming together to cook and clean, study, pray and love and support each other. It was a frightening period because communications coming from Tanzania were confusing, for the first time in eleven years I was unable to return to my family and life in Tanzania, and money became VERY scarce. We tightened our belts, searched for even more ways to creatively save money and worked together. I don't think I've ever been prouder of my administrative team in Tanzania, along with our children. It truly was inspiring.

We were blessed with medical miracles regarding Covid. Believing many of us, and our children experienced it in early January, we didn't see cases of it within Tumaini, nor close to us for the balance of the year. Thank you, Lord!

We rallied and fought and struggled through the year and welcome 2021 and new opportunities for savings, structure and creativity. I invite you to peruse our annual report and check up on our activities for the year and please, on behalf of our entire Tumaini family, (more than 800 of us now if you include Nshupu Secondary School which we have adopted), only good things - thank you all, past, present and future caregivers of our little grassroots organization where 96% of your dollar goes DIRECTLY to the care of our very blessed children! Asante!!

TUMAINI CHILDREN'S CHILDREN – LIVES ARE CHANGING FOREVER

- Tumaini's commitment to the well being of children, families and the local community has continued despite the challenges faced this year. Tumaini provides care and support to over 100 children around Ngyani Village Usa River by ensuring that their medical, educational, social and safety needs are addressed. While over half of the children continue to reside at Tumaini; support of children to remain within their family of origin or with relatives continues to be a major focus of Tumaini whenever possible.
- **Family Support** - Jackson is one of the children that lives at Tumaini. We assist not only him but his mother as well as his siblings. The eldest being Queenie. Queenie failed her Form 4 National Exam, which in most cases for a poor child, means the end of any opportunity for continued education. But Queenie had Tumaini. We fundraised and sponsored Queenie for a 2-year training in tailoring. She completed her apprenticeship in early 2020 and has begun making clothing and backpacks, not only for Tumaini, but for others in the community. A donated treadle sewing machine (from Ontario, Canada) was serviced and given to Queenie, along with supplies, to launch her new career. She is now able to independently support her own family.

We met Bibi Anna on the shore of the Usa River, attempting to earn money by washing other people's clothes. She is a tiny woman with hands gnarled from arthritis and struggled to feed her three orphaned grandchildren with the pennies she earned. They were living in a dilapidated wood hut. We moved them to a safe house and enrolled Samwel, Andrea, and Jennifer in school. If you visit Tumaini you will meet Bibi Anna when she comes for her weekly food allotment. The girls are completing secondary school and Samwel will graduate university with a Business Degree and be able to help care for his grandfather. Sponsorship is still needed for this family.

- **Community Outreach** - Tumaini's commitment is far reaching and goes far beyond the four walls of the main complex at Tumaini. This past year Tumaini continued to support a plethora of initiatives within the local community. Timotheo, for example, from the local village; underwent additional surgery resulting in furthering his independence and enhancing his quality of life. For anyone who has traveled to Tumaini, you can appreciate firsthand the need for local road construction on the main road coming up the hill; Tumaini provided some funds to assist with this project to help the local community. Access to fresh drinking water has always been a challenge for many of the families within the village; this past year, Tumaini has supported the development of strategies to help provide water to local neighbours. With the support and generosity of Kitchener Conestoga Rotary; Tumaini has begun to establish a neighbourhood day care and

community centre where “house girl” caregivers can also come to learn English and reading.



Tumaini donors funded a critical surgery for Timoteo in 2019. In 2020, he needed additional corrective surgeries to continue to improve his health, hygiene and quality of life. Tumaini donors have made a dramatic and unimaginable difference in this man’s life.

Tumaini donors raised more than 3 million shillings in less than 24 hours to afford this little girl, Norah, a critical brain surgery. Her skull was too fragile to allow her to attend school prior to the surgery. 2020 brought another year of sponsorship support to send her school. She is still in need of sponsorship.



- **Education**

This past year we saw significant accomplishments in the school performances of our children. Francis, and Angel completed Form 4 with Division 1 with the highest grade possible on their National Exams. Neema earned a very strong Division 2 and two outreach students at Nshupu receiving the highest grades and were supported by Tumaini to attend an A Level (advanced level) secondary school. Through the kindness and generosity of donors, Tumaini was able to continue to provide financial support for the continuation of five teacher positions in the math and sciences. It is as a result of these additional supports that there has been an overall increase in positive school outcomes including having the first Division 1 students in the history of the school.



Tumaini assisted in the construction of three new classrooms and a boy’s washroom for the boy’s hostel at Nshupu and the installation security gates for the student’s safety. Spearheaded by Tumaini US Director Mike Gulbraa, the digging of the well provided a direct water supply to Nshupu for the first time in the 20-year history of the school. Imagine what it must be of been like for the students, staff and local community to have fresh drinking water!!!

Additionally, Tumaini initiated a community fundraising campaign to build a 1000 student hostel and Nshupu. Every good structure begins with a solid foundation, and with the help of parents, we delivered five truckloads of foundation stone to start the building process. This will be an ongoing fundraising effort through 2021-2022.

- **Health and Well-Being** – In March and as a precautionary measure due to concerns regarding COVID 19, the Tanzanian government decided to close schools and universities for an undefined period of time. This resulted in all of our children regardless of where they were attending school, to return and to begin to quarantine together as a family. This time together really strengthened the bonds and relationships amongst the children.



Dependent on age and ability, each child assumed some degree of responsibility around Tumaini including such activities as cleaning, cooking and daily chores. Days were structured and included studies, prayers, life skills and fun activities. Resiliency is a word to describe the children and is reflected in their willingness to handle such uncertain times and unprecedented events. They worked together as a ‘family’ and as a result gained many life and social skills that can only better prepare them in becoming self-sufficient adults.

As Told By Francis

“March 17th - Early afternoon, it was announced that schools and universities should close for awhile due to the fact that COVID was identified in Tanzania. That very night I called Dada Mary who informed me that they would come to get us the very next morning.



On March 18th everyone came home from school. I do not honestly remember how the first week was; Frank and Mary came up with ideas on how we were going to handle things. To avoid boredom, we launched competitions categorized with boys vs girls, older kids vs younger children and also maintained individual scores. We did this on a daily basis from 3:00-5:00pm. Cleaning was done by ourselves and every spot was assigned to somebody and attended to on a daily basis.

I must assure you that nothing went astray here, cleanliness was completed on time, always. Meals and food were prepared by the children in groups of two who cooked twice per week. They sieved the rice and beans the night before and, in the morning, they would prepare the firewood, light up the stoves, cook the food while preparing the vegetables and cutting fruit. The ones on duty had to make sure that the dishes were washed and put away.

In protecting ourselves against COVID, the groceries would be washed by the gate with tones of vinegar by the older boys who wore gloves and overalls to cover their bodies.

You must understand that no one could go outside the premises, nor any contact with the outside world. Communications would be done meters apart with the outside world, whether this was a friend, teacher, relative or parent.



Leadership came from myself, Angel and Neema who oversaw daily activities that needed to be done. While other older children assumed some responsibilities, for example Paschal led devotion, Ayubu was responsible for sports and security, Ibrahim the storeroom, Athumaini was responsible for clean drinking water, and Zawadi and Hussien for firewood.

Disciplinary issues were handled by Frank and Mary. Frank and Mary made sure that we got all of our necessities and approved or vetoed our strategic ideas and plans. We were also supported by two Mamas; Mama Junior and Mama Ishmail.

Although we did experience some challenges at times, overall, most things went remarkably well.

By Francis

- **Social Welfare** - Through donor generosity, Tumaini has continued to be able to support the work of the Social Welfare Department of Meru District by funding one additional social worker to continue supporting the well-being of its citizens.

A YEAR OF TUMAINI HIGHLIGHTS

March 2020

- Mama Dee and Kelvin were invited by Mama Pam, Baba Kevin and Dada Maddie to Vancouver BC and spoke to students at St. Mary's Primary School and St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School about Tumaini



- Tumaini Canada West a group of dedicated Tumaini volunteers was established.



- Tumaini begins lockdown in response to the pandemic and all of the children have returned home. Mama Tumaini and Mama Ishmail move into Tumaini to help care for the children. Frank and Mery continue in their roles as daily administrators of Tumaini and Lohai ensures that there is availability necessary food for the children. Due to the lockdown; the children begin a daily routine consisting of studying, prayers, life skills and physical activities.
- The children reached out to medical professionals and the elderly in Canada by correspondence. These letters were distributed and brought many smiles to the faces of individuals deeply impacted by the pandemic.

April 2020

- The children remain in lockdown and continue to work together as a family to ensure the safety and well-being of each other.
- All volunteer opportunities are suspended due to the pandemic.



May 2020

- Mama Tumaini and Mama Ishmail sew masks for our Tumaini family.



June 2020

- The children returned to school at the end of June



July 2020

- Fresh water for Nshupu Secondary - What an accomplishment in thanks to the vision and generosity of Mike Gulbraa and friends.

- As Mama Dee is preparing to return to Tumaini with a shipment of shoes and clothing- much needed blankets due to the kindness of Tumaini supporters were also sent for our children.



August 2020

- Tumaini's favourite artist Kajo and musician Ebenezer spent time with the children. Kajo is teaching the children art and Ebenezer is teaching ukulele with the instruments donated by the Rotary Club of Simcoe and Maddie Ball.
- The blessings of the new homes of Mama Dee and Frank and Mery were done. The homes built by local labourers was funded exclusively by Mama Dee, and Frank and Mery resulting with them each now having a home to call their own.
- Thanks to the medical professionals at the Kiliminjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) Timotheo (an outreach from the community whom Tumaini supported last year with much needed surgery) underwent a second surgery which continues to provide him with a quality of life that he never had previously.



September 2020



- Kajo and friends return to Tumaini to support the education of our children in music and the arts.
- We broke ground and began construction for the long awaiting building of a multi purpose hub which will house a local day care, community marketplace and training centre, community centre and future volunteer house.
- Lauren Fulton joins the Board of Directors.

December 2020

- One of our youth, Ayubu, applied for acceptance to Mweka College to study his Basic Technician's Certificate to become a Park Ranger.
- Funding was obtained through the generosity of supporters to cover the salaries of 5 teachers including 1 Tumaini graduate until June 2021.
- Two students from Nshupu Secondary achieved Division 1- the first time on over 20-year history of the school- they achieved the highest performance achievable in Mandatory National Exams
- Tumaini youth Ibrahim applied for acceptance to The College of Wildlife Management (MWEKA) to fulfill a lifelong dream of becoming a safari guide.
- A celebration and graduation party for Francis, Angel and Neema for completing Form IV- this is a major accomplishment and opens the doors to so many future opportunities for them.
- Christmas celebrations at Tumaini
- Queenie (dada Jackson) who helps support her widowed mother and siblings and after being supplied with a sewing machine and completing 2 years of training sewed 50 backpacks for the children at Tumaini. Queenie and her family are amongst the families supported by Tumaini outreach.

The Story of Fresh Drinking Water- NOW available to local students and the community



In early 2020 Mama Dee came to me and asked if I would help raise funds for a well at Nshupu. It was explained to me that a well at the school would help not only the handful of Tumaini kids that attend the school but all the other students at the school and the greater surroundings.

I agreed and immediately started fundraising within my circle of friends, contacts and other Tumaini supporters. Clean water is one of the most vital resources anyone can have in Tanzania. Only 57% of Tanzanians have access to a safe water source and 30 million people don't have access to improved sanitation. People living under these circumstances, particularly women and girls, spend a significant amount of time traveling long distances to collect water. Many of the folks we reached out to in order to help support this effort were surprised that the access to clean, running water was so limited in Tanzania. Having a clean, fresh water source helps with the health and overall well-being of those that have access to it.

In a matter of six weeks, we were very close to what we needed for the well so we pushed a little harder and at the eight week point we not only had enough for the well but about \$US2000 extra to help support other immediate Tumaini needs - food. In the end, we had about 10 donors who gave varying amounts towards the well. They are all friends of mine and most live in my immediate neighborhood.



Frank oversaw the well project at Nshupu and kept us posted as to the progress. We hoped that the well would be finished by the time my family and some friends (also Tumaini supporters) were due to visit Tanzania on vacation in the summer of 2020. The stars aligned as you see in the images, the well was completed and several of the donors were able to

attend the final drilling stages and the "first" water coming out of the well.

The leaders and key elders of the village greeted and thanked us at a ceremony held at Nshupu. The school leaders also greeted us and thanked us for the assistance. During the ceremony at the school, the entire student body was invited to see the well and during the ceremony the students sang songs of thanks and praise to God and us and they sang the National Anthem of Tanzania. The love, support, and heart-felt thanks were all warmly felt and there were several people with tears in their eyes - me being one of them.

The impact of this well is huge. Fresh water has been brought to the school to help with:

- Students washing their clothes - they no longer have to use buckets of water from the river
- The school kitchen having running water both inside the kitchen and outside where the students can rinse their dishes
- Several school toilets having running water rather than buckets of water to flush - improved sanitation and health
- It provides school staff & students with clean water on a daily basis, and
- it offers clean water to the surrounding neighbors.

I have been back to Nshupu twice since the well was completed and the continued happiness and health is apparent from the smiles and hugs we receive from the students and locals. There is nothing more satisfying in life than to help others.

By Mike Gulbraa, Executive Director of Tumaini U.S.A.

Fundraising



2020 was a very difficult year for Tumaini as many traditional fundraising events were cancelled due to the pandemic. Ongoing sponsorship suffered setbacks due to the economic climate of our some of our sponsors. Painful cutbacks occurred including the laying off of four staff; and while these decisions were difficult to make; all were done without compromising the well-being of the children and families of Tumaini. What did occur were some unintended positive experiences as our children became more self-reliant and were exposed (age appropriately) to the development and enhancement of life skills promoting their personal growth.

January 2020

- As a result of the increase in student registration at Nshupu Secondary School; funding for the purchase of 127 desks and chairs was found.

March 2020

- The 5th Annual St. Paddy's Day Primer was a huge success- fun by all. This would be our last live fundraiser of 2020.

April 2020

- On-Line Market- the selling of merchandise from Tanzania and just in time for Mother's Day- spearheaded by Becky Pow
- Creation of an on-line Cookbook by volunteer Teagan Fitch
- Generous donation for the purchase of maize, beans and rice

May 2020

- Proceeds from the purchase of Waterworn Jewellery to be donated to Tumaini compliments of Lauren Fulton

July 2020

- On-line selling of furniture gifted to Tumaini
- Fundraising for additional surgery required by Timatheo
- Fundraising to purchase much needed blankets and cost for shipping items to Tumaini.
- Pop up Candy Store in British Columbia by volunteers Kevin and Pam with proceeds going to Tumaini- it was such a great success it was extended into August.



September 2020

- Fundraising for the purchase of much needed 87 pairs of shoes for our children.



October 2020

- 2nd annual rotary walk (held in Tanzania) to end polio- our very own Oddo was an active participant in the walk.
- Tumaini Hope On-line auction begins and continues till November - this fundraiser spearheaded by Becky Pow was a result of many generous donations from the local community and from volunteers which contributed to its success.

November 2020

- Our Tumaini Vancouver Branch held a successful fundraising drive selling 50 jars of Pam's Jams (eat jam give hope) and 210 bags of chocolate (eat chocolate have hope) which ran until the beginning of January 2021.



- The 94-year-old mother of Tumaini Vancouver Branch Dolores Simmons sewed and sold reusable bags and aprons made from fabric from Tanzania to support the needs of our children.



- Tumaini Children’s Foundation partnered with The Folk, a Norfolk company and created t-shirts and sweatshirts for purchase with proceeds going to the day-to-day expenses of Tumaini children and family.
- Holiday Bottle Drive spearheaded by Lauren Fulton continued until January 2021 and was a huge success.



December 2020

- Due to the generosity of a Tumaini supporter, funds were raised to continue the essential work of local social welfare staff for another year.
- Successful fundraising to cover the costs of salaries of 5 much needed teachers until June 2021.
- Tumaini Vancouver Branch held a very successful ‘Wine Survivor’ Fundraising Event with the slogan being Drink Wine-Give Hope’.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to our sponsors and donors who have made Tumaini possible for over 100 children, their families and members of our local community here in Tanzania.

Tumaini Children's Foundation Canada Board of Directors 2020

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